been utilising about half of the total sugarcane production for the manufacture of crystal sugar, remaining being utilised for khandsari and gur, where recovery is lower than sugar mills. Thus the country losses approximately 4 to 4.5 tonnes of sugar for each 100 tonnes of cane used for khandsari and gur making which in financial terms, amounting to, approximately, Rs. 1800 crores every year.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The present licensed capacity of sugar industry is 176.7225 lakh tonnes, and the target of licensed capacity to be achieved by the end of the 8th Five Year Plan period is 198.67 lakh tonnes. This would lead to greater and more efficient utilisation of sugarcane within the country.

In orde to increase the crushing capacity the Government has initiated the following measures :—

(i) Processing of pending applications for grant of letters of intent/ industrial licences for establishment of new sugar factories/ expansion projects has been taken up on priority to achieve the aforesaid target of licensed capacity.

(ii) The procedure for grant of letters of intent for expansion projects has been simplified.

(iii) A revised incentive scheme has been announced for new sugar units/expansion projects in order to enable them to repay the term loans taken from the Financial Institutions.

(iv) The molasses produced by sugar factories has been decontrolled which would improve the economic viability of sugar factories thereby enabling the existing units to carry out expansion and also induce entrepreneurs to set up new factories.

(v) Financial assistance at a concessional rate of interest is provided from the Sugar Development Fund for modernisation/rehabilitation/ expansion of the existing units.

Licences Granted for Sugar Mills in U. P., M. P. and Haryana

150. SHRI GAYA SINGH :
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether licences have been granted recently for starting sugar mills in U. P., M. P. and Haryana ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) when these applications were received and when the decision was taken and whether the pending applications were also taken into consideration while taking decisions ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI) : (a) to (d) 273 applications from Uttar Pradesh, 14 from Madhya Pradesh and 18 from Haryana have been received through Department of Industrial Development for setting up of new sugar factories as on 31-8-1993. These applications for setting up of new sugar factories have been scrutinised by the Screening Committee. After examination, the recommendations of Ministry of Food have been sent to Ministry of Industry. Letters of Intent/Licenses would be issued by that Ministry.

Uniform Age Limit for Admission in Schools

151. SHRI CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2332 given in the Rajya Sabha on 13th August, 1993 regarding uniform age limits for admission in schools and state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that some schools in Delhi (though recognised by Delhi Administration) prescribe different age limits for children for applying for L.K.G. (Lower